



## PLANNING AHEAD 2010 HURRICANE SEASON QUICKLISTS

### **BEFORE A STORM:** **Boat Preparation Tips**

These lists, based on the Miami Herald Action Line's April 2006 tips, were updated with info from Miami-Dade County's Emergency Management web pages in 2010.

**Never** try to ride out a storm on your boat!

If your boat is in the water:

Before hurricane season begins:

- ❑ Check the overall condition of your boat. Make sure the engine or outboard motor work in case you have to move the vessel. Ensure that you have fuel, batteries and proper life-saving and fire-fighting equipment on board.
- ❑ Check all through-hull seals and the watertight integrity of the vessel.
- ❑ Check structural soundness of all cleats and other deck hardware so it can support the extra lines you will deploy before a storm.
- ❑ Take inventory of your deck lines: You should have enough to double line the moorings. If not, purchase what you need in advance.
- ❑ Make a list of all equipment aboard your board. Keep a copy of the inventory on the boat and another copy in your Important Documents/Emergency Supply Kit.
- ❑ Talk to boat owners around you to coordinate mooring plans. Your boat may be properly secured yet could be damaged by unsecured boats in the vicinity.
- ❑ Talk to the dock master about the marina's hurricane plan so that you know what is expected of you and when.
- ❑ If you have contracted for a marina or other space up the Miami River or other location away from your usual dock, practice moving your boat to this location. Note the route and the time it takes and make note of the extra time you will need in an evacuation situation due to more boat traffic and worsening weather conditions).
- ❑ Check your insurance. If you have added boat coverage to your homeowner's policy, be aware that windstorm-induced losses to your vessel may not be covered. (Hull liability insurance will not cover losses if the boat is damaged or stolen.)

## BOATS – VKB 2010 Hurricane Season Quicklist, pg. 2

As a storm approaches:

- ❑ **Begin preparations early.** Intracoastal Waterway bridges will be opened only rarely once the order is given to evacuate barrier islands. Lock downs will occur. Monitor VHF Channel 16 for advisories for local marine law enforcement officials. You cannot use the Miami River as a “Hurricane Hole” unless you have made prior arrangements with a marina or dock owner.
- ❑ Secure all windows and hatches with duct tape.
- ❑ Remove or secure all antennas, gear, chairs and loose deck items.
- ❑ Disconnect shore power. Verify that batteries are fully charged to run bilge pumps.
- ❑ Double-up lines and double tie every knot.
- ❑ Tie dock lines high on pilings and rider poles to allow for rising water.
- ❑ If tying lines off on cleats, allow as much line slack as is prudent.
- ❑ Check and double up spring lines and whip lines to ensure they will be able to handle the load of fending away the boat from the mooring structure.

If your boat is out of the water:

- ❑ Remove or secure all antennas, gear, chairs and loose deck items.
- ❑ If your boat is in rack storage, ensure the structure can withstand hurricane-force winds. If not, move the boat onto a trailer.

If your boat is on a trailer:

- ❑ Store it and the trailer near a house or other fixed structure.
- ❑ Ensure that the boat is secured to the trailer.
- ❑ Lash down the trailer with heavy rope and/or chain [to tie downs inserted in the ground].
- ❑ Block the tires and let some air out to help prevent the trailer from floating or rolling away.

